



## Lake Okeechobee Works of the District Master Permit Program

The goal of this program is to reduce the annual phosphorus load discharging into Lake Okeechobee from the EAA consistent with the goals, objectives and strategies contained in the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan for Lake Okeechobee. This sub-basin south of Lake Okeechobee has a total annual phosphorus load reduction target of 10 tons per year. The reduction in phosphorus loads is to be accomplished by implementation of BMPs, treatment and disposal systems, specific phosphorus control projects or any other appropriate management strategies for reduction of phosphorus.

A Management Plan Master Permit was issued by the District to the Everglades Agricultural Area Environmental Protection District (EAA EPD) for this area. This master permit was issued to the EAA EPD rather than to each landowner in the basin and includes all the property owners within the EAA sub-basin south of the lake. The master permit was issued in accordance with Rule 40E-61, F.A.C. and provides details of the management plan for phosphorus load reduction and the methods used to establish compliance with the permit such as the District's water quality monitoring program.



*Lake Okeechobee covers 650 square miles and is the second largest freshwater lake in the United States. The historical wetland regions surrounding the lake thousands of years ago extended from the Kissimmee River to the Everglades.*